United Nations E/CN.3/2007/28

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
20 December 2006

Original: English

Statistical Commission
Thirty-eighth session
27 February-2 March 2007
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

Draft programme of work of the United Nations Statistics Division for the biennium 2008-2009

Note by the Secretariat

1. The draft programme of work in the field of statistics for the biennium 2008-2009, which is contained in the annex to the present note, is submitted for the consideration of the Statistical Commission in compliance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.[1] The General Assembly, in its resolution 58/269, decided that the programme narratives of the programme budget fascicles would be identical to the biennial programme plan. In this connection, the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/235 has approved the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009, which has incorporated the programme narrative, namely the objectives, expected accomplishments of the Secretariat and indicators of achievement, of the statistics subprogramme.

2. The draft programme of work, which includes information on outputs, has been formulated within the framework of subprogramme 5 (Statistics) of programme 9 (Economic and social affairs) of the biennial programme plan for the period 2008-2009.

3. The Commission is invited to take note of the programme narrative and review the proposed outputs to be included in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, which will be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.

* E/CN.3/2007/1.
[1] ST/SGB/2000/8.

06-67494 (E) 110107

Annex

Draft programme of work for the biennium 2008-2009 for the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Objectives

To advance the global statistical system in order to produce high quality, easily accessible comparable national statistics for policymakers and other users at the national and international levels.

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened global statistical system, with more active participation by countries and increased collaboration among international organizations, including progress in the harmonization and rationalization of development indicators	(a) (i) Increased number of participants from countries and international organizations attending the sessions of the Statistical Commission and its workshops, expert group meetings and seminars (ii) Increased number of collaborative activities carried out with international organizations on the rationalization and harmonization of development indicators
(b) Better and broader use by Governments, international organizations, research institutes, the private sector and the general public of statistical data and technical guidelines produced by the subprogramme	(b) (i) Increased percentage of requests for statistical data satisfied (ii) Increased percentage of visits to the Statistics Division website
(c) Strengthened capacity of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to routinely collect, compile, store, analyse and disseminate official statistics and indicators in the economic, social, demographic and environmental fields to produce quality data for policymakers and the public in general	(c) Increased percentage of participants utilizing knowledge obtained at training workshops

External factors

Assuming that national statistical offices will have the necessary resources and capacity, it is anticipated that the subprogramme will achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments.

Outputs

During the biennium 2008-2009, the following outputs will be delivered:

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies:

(i) General Assembly:

a. Substantive servicing. Meetings of the Fifth Committee on the scale of assessments (20);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Background documents and conference room papers on the scale of assessments for the Fifth Committee (2);

(ii) Committee on Contributions:

a. Substantive servicing. Meetings of the Committee on Contributions (70);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Reports and background papers and conference room papers on the scale of assessments for the Committee on Contributions (2);

(iii) Statistical Commission:

a. Substantive servicing. Meetings of the thirty-ninth and fortieth sessions of the Statistical Commission (14);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Reports to the Statistical Commission. The Statistical Commission will decide on the exact topics at its 2007 session (27);

(iv) United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names:

a. Substantive servicing. Meetings of the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (12); the eighteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (10); and the ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (10);

b. Parliamentary documentation. Report on the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (1); report on the eighteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (1); and report on the ninth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas;

(v) Ad hoc expert groups:

Expert group meetings on: population and housing censuses (1); international migration (1); review of progress in gender statistics (1); vital statistics system (1); national accounts (1); revised recommendations of distributive trade statistics (1); revised recommendations for international merchandise trade statistics (1); international economic and social classifications (1); environment statistics (1); technical sub-group meeting on classifications (1); dissemination policies (1); inter-agency and expert meetings on Millennium Development Goals indicators and development statistics (4);

(b) Other substantive outputs:

(i) Recurrent publications:

- *Demographic Yearbook*, 2006 and 2007 editions (print) (2);
- *Demographic Yearbook*, special topic (2);
- *Vital Statistics Report* (4);
- Website on demographic and social statistics, quarterly update (8);
- Website on social indicators, half-yearly update (4);
- Website on vital statistics, monthly update (24);
- *National Accounts Statistics: Main Aggregates and Detailed Tables*, 2005 and 2006 editions (print) (2);
- *National Accounts Statistics: Analysis of Main Aggregates*, 2005 and 2006 editions (print) (2);
- Newsletter on national accounts (4);
- Website on national accounts, annual update (2);
- *Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook* (2);
- Website on industry statistics, annual update (2);
- *Energy Statistics Yearbook*, 2006 and 2007 editions (print) (2);
- *Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles*, 2006 and 2007 (print) (2);
- Energy statistics online database (1);
- Newsletter on energy statistics (4);
- Website on energy statistics, annual update (2);
- *International Trade Statistics Yearbook*, vols. I and II (print) (2);
- Newsletter of international trade statistics (4);
- Newsletter on international merchandise trade statistics (8);
- An online annex to the *Yearbook of International Trade Statistics*, vols. I and II (2008 and 2009)
- Website on international trade statistics (2);
- Comtrade databases on international merchandise trade statistics (Internet annual update) (2);
- Services trade database on statistics of international trade in services (Internet) (2);
- Newsletter of the task force on statistics of international trade in services (4);
- Website of the task force on statistics of international trade in services, annual update (2);

- Environmental country profiles, 2008 and 2009 (2);
- Newsletter on environment statistics (4);
- Website on environment statistics, annual update (2);
- Newsletter on environment-economic accounting (2);
- Website on environmental accounting, annual update (2);
- Website on good practices in official statistics, annual update (2);
- Website on methodological work, annual update (2);
- Website on citygroups, annual update (2);
- Newsletter on classifications (4);
- Website on classifications, annual update (2);
- *Statistical Yearbook*, 2008 and 2009 editions (print) (2);
- *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*, 2008-2009 (print and Internet) (48);
- *World Statistics in Brief*, 2008 and 2009 editions (print and Internet) (4);
- Millennium Development Goals report and statistical annex for the Office of the Secretary-General (2);
- Millennium Development Goals indicators database, update (2);
- Glossy report on the Millennium Development Goals (2);
- Millennium Development Goals information (2);
- Website on the Millennium Development Goals (2);
- Website on the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators (2);
- United Nations Statistics Division Internet homepage, quarterly update (8);
- Website of the Statistics Division publications archive (2);
- Website of the Common Database, quarterly update (8);
- United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names information bulletin (3);
- Website of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, annual update (2);
- Website on Statistical Commission, annual update (2);
- Website on Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (2);
- Website on technical cooperation (2);

(ii) Non-recurrent publications:

- *Handbook on Collection of Economic Characteristics in Population Censuses* (1);
- *International Classification of Activities in Time-Use Surveys* (print and Internet) (2);
- *Handbook on International Migration Statistics* (1);
- *Manual on Compilation of Gender Information* (1);
- *Principles and Recommendations for Vital Statistics System*, Revision 3 (1);
- *1993 System of National Accounts*, Rev.1 (1);
- *Revised Energy Statistics Manual: Definitions, units of measure and conversion factors* (1);
- *Manual on Revised International Recommendations of Distributive Trade Statistics* (1);
- *National Practices in Compilation and Dissemination of Distributive Trade Statistics* (1);
- *Distributive Trade Statistics: Compilers Manual* (1);
- *Indices of Distributive Trade: A Handbook of Good Practices* (1);
- Online database on national practices in compilation and dissemination of international merchandise trade statistics (1);
- Correlation tables between Harmonized System 2002 and Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 4 (1);
- Online database on national practices in compilation and dissemination of statistics in international trade in services (1);
- Updated *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services* (1);
- *Manual on International Recommendations on Tourism Statistics* (1);
- *National Practices in Statistical Business Register* (1);
- *National Practices in Economic Census* (1);
- *Manual on the Development of Environment Statistics* (1);
- Recommendations on metadata for environment statistics (1);
- *Handbook on Statistical Organization*, Revision 4 (1);
- *Handbook on Millennium Development Goal Indicators* (1);

(iii) Technical material:

- Development and maintenance of statistical databases for the collection, processing, printing and dissemination of statistical data in the areas of environment statistics, energy statistics,

commodity production statistics, index numbers of industrial production, national accounts, demographic statistics, international trade statistics and classifications (2);

- Standardized statistical data and metadata exchange collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Bank for International Settlements and others in an inter-agency working group (2);
- MDG indicators database: technical development and maintenance, and documentation and training (2);
- Standardized statistical data metadata exchange, coordination with relevant agencies within the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on MDG Indicators for the development of statistical data metadata exchange on development indicators (2);
- Responses to ad hoc requests from Member States and other users for information on internationally recommended concepts and methods, as well as national practices, in the aforementioned fields of statistics;
- Updated documentation on databases maintenance and revised training material (2);

(iv) Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings:

- Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (4);
- Meetings of Cluster 10, Statistics, EC-ESA (2);

(c) Technical cooperation (Regular budget/extrabudgetary)[a]

(i) Advisory services (on government request) in statistics and statistical data processing to assist in the enhancement of national capabilities in the statistical offices of developing countries (2);

(ii) Training workshops aimed at capacity-building in statistics for developing countries in various areas of statistics (2);

(iii) Fellowships, short-term training, study tours and on-the-job training for national statisticians from developing countries to upgrade and strengthen their knowledge and skills in the area of statistics and to develop regional and international networks; as well as in the area of geographic information systems (2);

(iv) Provision of technical services to Member States and regional and interregional projects and training to assist developing countries in strengthening national capabilities in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics (2).

[a] Outputs (i) to (iv) are required to support specific programmes and priorities for developing statistical capacity-building, such as censuses, surveys of various kinds, environment statistics, analytical reporting, as is done with MDG indicators of various kinds, and collaboration with international funds, agencies and programmes in achieving coordinated national statistical programmes.